The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will broaden the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

VOL. 13, NO. 47. WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1924 WHOLE NO. 670.

"WOODROW WILSON BELONGS TO THE AGES"

With Washington and Lincoln, Woodrow Wilson belongs to the ages.

Speaking in the name of the toiling masses of our country, we offer our tribute to the great leader who has passed from us.

The wage earners of America will forever cherish the memory of Woodrow Wilson.

He, above all, was the true representative of the idealism upon which our Republic is founded and of the spirit of indomitable purpose and honesty which is at the heart of America.

Woodrow Wilson was our great leader during the dark days of war; the leader under whose guidance the free peoples of the world came to understand the true issues involved in that titanic conflict.

The burden which he bore in the great struggle for human freedom crushed him and left him the saddest casualty of the war.

But it was not only in war that his heart beat high with resolve for human betterment; he was ever the great idealist, ever the noble fighter for democracy, justice and human progress.

The institutions of our country bear the indelible impress of his leadership, of his courage and vision.

Legislation that marked a great turning point in the lives of our people came into being under his leadership.

The seamen's act, which freed the last bondsmen of America, and the Clayton act, which asserted that the labor of a human being is not a commodity, are monuments to his humanitarian leadership and to his devotion to the cause of industrial freedom and social justice.

In the international relations he introduced the challenge of the highest ethical and moral standards that men had evolved in their personal relations.

He kept us out of the maelstrom of the world war until convinced we no longer in honor could remain aloof.

When entrusted with the responsibility of leading our nation to participation in world affairs he became the world's spiritual leader and showed us how to fulfill duty in a way that would bring the spirit and methods of international relations to accord with that idealism that is the foundation of our Republic.

America's wage earners bow their heads in tribute to the fallen leader.

They mourn a great citizen, a great champion of truth and righteousness.

The humble ones of the world have lost an understanding friend and an unfaltering champion.

But the idealism, the nobility of spirit, the example of devotion to duty, will live forever, inspiring men and women always, leading them always to greater deeds and better lives.

Woodrow Wilson lived for the people, and the people for all time will cherish the heritage which he has left them.

Organized labor's tribute to Woodrow Wilson, adopted by 100 trade unionists, assembled on invitation of President Gompers to take action on the passing of the former president.

The following committee represented labor at the funeral services: President Gompers, Vice Presidents Duncan and Woll, Secretary Morrison, President Donlin of the building trades department, President Jewell of the railway employes' department, Secretary Berres of the metal trades department and J. Paul Stevens, representing the railroad brotherhoods.

ATTACK ON MINERS IN HOUSE ANSWERED BY LABOR MEMBER

Washington, Feb. 9.—Congressman Casey of Pennsylvania, union plumber and member of the house labor group, defended coal miners on the floor of the house in a speech that not a single spokesman for privilege dared challenge.

The speech was in reply to Congressman Treadway's recent attack on anthracite miners, who were charged with "conspiring" against the public. Congressman Casey's reply was listened to by men who are free with their charges against labor when they are not allied upon for proof. This time they were silent before a trade unionist who proved his intellectual mastery over them.

Congressman Treadway's attack on the miners was the stereotyped citizens' alliance harangue with is given wide circulation by anti-unionists to mold a public opinion hostile to the workers. The Treadway speech was cut to pieces by Congressman Casey, who discussed production costs, wages, royalties, sales agencies, interlocking directorates, miners' lives sacrificed, refuse coal that sells for $15 a ton, the millions of cars of coal on side tracks last winter because the railroads were attempting to smash the shop men's unions and other phases of the coal industry.

Congressman Treadway declared that the miners' license law of Pennsylvania means union control of the mines, because "this license is granted by a board of miners, all members of the union organization."

Congressman Casey showed that the mine license law was passed by the Pennsylvania legislature in 1889, "before the United Mine Workers of America entered into the anthracite field."

The speaker said that a legislature owned and controlled by the coal owners and the Pennsylvania railroad passed the license law because of an aroused public opinion against "murdering miners in the anthracite coal fields."

The members of that legislature did not dare go home without passing some safety measure to stop these murders," said the speaker.

"This law was passed when miners in the anthracite fields could not say their lives or their souls were their own. They were helpless slaves. They worked all month, every day the colliery worked, and on payday found they were indebted to the company at the company store."

Members of the miners' license boards, it was shown, are appointed by common pleas judges, though Congressman Treadway declared these boards are controlled by the Miners' union.

"These corporations will not hesitate to spend $200,000 or $300,000 to elect one of their attorneys as judge of the court of common pleas in our locality, and it is men of that kind who appoint these boards."

The trade unionist's speech was repeatedly cheered. In urging an extension of time for the speaker to continue his remarks, Congressman Vestal declared that the speech "is the most important that has been delivered on the floor at this session."

NOTABLE GAINS MADE BY N. Y. FURRIERS

New York, Feb. 9.—Establishment of an unemployment fund, a 12½-percent increase on all minimum rates, an apprentice system and regularization for contracting shops are features of an agreement between officers of the organized workers and the New York fur manufacturers' association. Both parties have submitted the contract to their membership for approval.

"This is a splendid victory," said General President Max Kaufman of the International Fur Workers. "Our conference with the manufacturers has also resulted in an understanding that in addition to the three-months' provision for division of work, the conference committee in the fur industry is to devise means in emergency situations in the trade to mitigate or reduce employment.

"This agreement not only calls for substantial gains, but is along constructive lines. It is fair to employers and workers, and indicates what workers may accomplish and what problems they may consider when thoroughly organized."

President Gompers wired his congratulations to President Kaufman on the successful ending of the fur workers' negotiations. "Permit me to tender congratulations upon this excellent outcome of your efforts," said the A. F. of L. executive.

FALLS ARE DEADLY

Wilmington, Del., Feb. 9.—More people are killed in our large cities by falls than by street cars, fires and elevators combined, said Frank E. Morris, safety expert, in discussing accidental deaths at a safety-first meeting in this city.

"Out of an average group of 25,000 people, we know that in the next 12 months 21 will be killed by accidents," said Mr. Morris. "We can go further and foretell in what way they will probably meet death. Three will be killed by falls, four by street automobiles, two by burns, one by firearms, one by machinery and the rest in miscellaneous ways.

"We do not need to stop there," he continued. "We can even go further and say that one of the three to be killed by falls will be a person over 75 years old; one of the four to be killed by autos will be a child between 5 and 9 years old, and the number of innocent children to be sacrificed on the altar of safety every year is so great that we can almost predict that one of the two people killed by burns will be a child under 5 years old."

CLOTHING COSTS UP

New York, Feb. 9.—The American woolen company (the woolen trust) announced that the cost of men's wool suitings and overcoatings has been increased 5 to 10 per cent.

WOULD END CENSORSHIP

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 9.—A bill has been introduced in the state senate to repeal the state motion picture censorship law, Governor Smith favored this plan in his annual message.

STATE UNIONS TO MEET

Port Arthur, Texas, Feb. 9.—A call has been issued for the annual convention of the Texas state federation of labor, which will be held in this city beginning Monday, April 21.

CHURCH MEN OPPOSE ALIEN REGISTRATION

Washington, Feb. 9.—Registration of aliens, favored by the secretary of labor, is labeled "war hysteria" by the national Catholic welfare conference, in its weekly press statement. The proposal is thoroughly un-American, it is declared.

"The most important and the most urgent comment on this proposal is that it ought to be defeated," the church men say. "It is not necessary. It is the outcome of war hysteria which has not yet been subsided, and, worst of all, it would open the way to administrative abuses and injustice.

"That all aliens should be urged and encouraged to learn the English language and to become citizens as soon as possible is a proposition which no one will seriously dispute. That the institutions of the country would be benefited through their compulsory naturalization is extremely questionable. It is doubtful whether the votes of aliens and those who are citizens by compulsion, would contribute greatly to good and intelligent government in any case, the whole spirit of the proposed law is undemocratic and un-American.

"The bill should be opposed by all lovers of liberty and all lovers of genuine Americanism."

PUBLIC CORPORATION REFUSES LIVING WAGE

Clarksburg, W. Va., Feb. 9.—Electrical workers here and in Fairmont are receiving state-wide attention for their struggle against anti-union methods of the Monongahela West Penn public service company.

The corporation opposes the eight-hour day and an adequate wage. The electrical workers exhausted their efforts to secure a settlement and were forced on strike last July.

The company will not arbitrate unless permitted to select two-thirds of the arbitrators, though the workers are called upon to pay one-half of the board's expenses.

The company rejected the workers' request that all workers eligible to membership in the union be included in the contract. The company's wage rate is about 40 per cent below the average in a radius of 200 miles from this city.

WILL WATCH DAILY PRESS

Chicago, Feb. 9.—The associated general contractors of America have established a watch over the daily press.

The Constructor, a magazine issued in the interests of this industry, says:

"The contractors, both as individuals and through their national organization, are determined that no newspaper shall make any statement derogatory to the industry without being called upon immediately to produce the facts or acknowledge the absence of foundation for the statement."

One influential newspaper in this city has been taken to task for its sweeping indictment of "unscrupulous contractors."

PROFITS IN RADIATORS

New York, Feb. 9.—The American radiator company's profits last year were $10,700,000, after federal taxes were paid and healthy sums set aside for "wear and tear" of the various plants.

Bankers Praise Treasury Head Who Increased Interest Rates

Washington, Feb. 9.—Billions of dollars are annually taken from the people through high interest rates that Secretary of the Treasury Mellon allows bond holders, said Senator Shipstead on the floor of the senate.

It was a caustic speech of the Minnesota lawmaker, who presented a terrific arraignment of the treasury head. Senator Shipstead revealed the astounding fact that the secretary has the power to issue government bonds to the amount of $21,500,000,000, and that he has the sole power to fix interest rates, which are now higher than are paid by banks, commercial interests and many states.

During the next five years, Senator Shipstead said, bonds in the amount of $7,400,000,000 will come due. As the sinking fund can care for only $1,620,000,000, this leaves $5,780,000,000 that must be renewed. A difference of one-half of 1 per cent interest on this vast sum means $27,000,000 a year, or $135,000,000 in five years. This is at the rate of $2,200,000,000 in 20 years, or one-sixth of the total indebtedness of the United States.

Senator Shipstead pointed out that a fraction of 1 per cent less interest to bondholders will care for a soldiers' bonus "without adding 1 cent to the taxpayers' burden."

The senator quoted figures to show that low interest rates are at record height. This affects taxes and industry, and makes economy in government impossible. The only ones who profit are bankers, he said.

Through special legislation banks may hold government securities without, being taxed on their incomes from same, though an individual must pay taxes on incomes on holdings over $5,000.

Senator Shipstead called attention to the treasury department's demand that states and municipalities be stopped from issuing tax-free securities, while the treasury department is issuing tax-free government securities to banks.

The speech is dynamite and TNT. It has been considered so important that it is given the "silent treatment" by that section of the public press which loudly proclaims the secretary of the treasury is the last word in financial wisdom.

Senator Shipstead has raised the curtain. He has exposed the Mellon jubilee shenanigan. They are fleecing the people out of billions of dollars annually.

JOKER IN IMMIGRATION BILL WOULD END SEAMEN'S LAW

Washington, Feb. 9.—Officers of the International Seamen's union have discovered a joker of one word in the new immigration bill, now before the house, which would destroy the La Follette seamen's law.

Andrew Furuseth, president of the seamen's union, declares it is the most subtle and most scientifically planned attack on a labor law that ever came under his observation.

The La Follette law permits an alien seaman to leave his ship and stay in port 60 days, after which he must ship in another vessel bound for the same ports. Prior to this law, if he left his ship he was arrested by American officers on complaint of the master, and placed in irons until sailing time.

The present law protects the seaman in demanding American wages before he will re-ship. This forces higher wage standards on foreign vessels, and is the reason these vessel owners and their American stockholders are fighting against the La Follette seaman's law.

"Foreign vessel owners are opposed to permitting their seamen to be held," said President Furuseth. "They do not want their low-wage seamen 'contaminated' by talk of American wages and American living standards they would hear in American ports."

The secretary of labor has been ordering these alien seamen to deposit heavy bonds before they can land. Courts have ruled that the secretary of labor has no such power, but that official continues demanding these bonds.

"Recently Federal Judge Hough of New York released a seaman on habeas corpus proceedings and used very strong language with reference to the department of labor converting private vessels into prisons in the harbors of this country.

"The immigration bill now appears in the house with a section which provides, among other things, that the secretary of labor shall have power to make regulations and 'conditions' under which an alien seaman may land.

"The joker is the word 'conditions.' If that is accepted by congress, foreign ship owners will employ just the kind that will be held, and the seamen's act is repealed.

"This will legalize the very thing that the courts have held illegal, and is the very thing that the foreign ship owners want," said President Furuseth. He pointed out that the entire La Follette seamen's law revolves around the right of alien seamen to leave their vessels.

LAW TEACHER OPPOSES FIVE-TO-FOUR RULE

Washington, Feb. 9.—A vote of seven members of the United States supreme court to annul an act of congress is supported by Alpheus T. Putney, dean and professor of law at American university.

"At present," said Dr. Putney, "in all close supreme court decisions one justice can declare unconstitutional an act of congress that would have been passed by a three-fourths vote of the members of both senate and house, and been signed by the president. In fact, that is always what does happen, as practically all the vital cases of this kind in the past have been decided by one vote—in other words, by five to four decisions. The requiring of seven votes in reaching such decisions appears to many to be the best way out of the present controversy."

Dean Putney showed that for 44 years the supreme court nullified no act of congress. He said the Dred Scott decision is one of the most important ever rendered and was largely responsible for the war between the states and for the thirteenth amendment.

UNION BACKS OBREGON

San Francisco, Feb. 9.—Following an address by Luis N. Morones, Celso Kelley on the Mexican revolution the labor council instructed its officials to send a word of encouragement to President Obregon and his federal army.

Organizer Kelley showed that the Mexican government maintains friendly relations with organized labor. The revolutionists are being supported by reactionary elements who treated workers as serfs when they were in power.

LABOR EXCESS IN SOUTH

Charlotte, N. C., Feb. 9.—There are so many applicants for employment at the Belmont knitting mills here that the company has displayed this sign: "No labor is wanted."

OPPOSE DUMPING

Hamilton, Canada, Feb. 9.—Organized labor is making vigorous protest against the government's immigration "dumping" policy. Families men and women are thrown on Canadian shores from England and Europe.

PEOPLE ARE WARNED ON DEADLY GAS FUMES

Washington, Feb. 9.—Warning as to the deadly hazards of gas in unventilated rooms and garages is again sounded by the federal bureau of mines.

Many houses have no flues for carrying off waste gases, which remain in the house. If a gas heater without a flue is used, a window should be open at least one-inch all the time. The bureau warns people that they are "flirting with death" if they go to bed with a heater burning and the windows and doors closed.

Another deadly hazard is carbon monoxide from automobiles in closed garages. The department pleads that these garages be ventilated, and that one should never crawl under a car when the engine is running, no matter how good the ventilation is. Another hazard is operating a tightly-closed automobile on a highway or elsewhere. Provision should be made for some fresh air entering the tonneau, the statement says.

URGE HIGHER P. O. WAGE

New York, Feb. 9.—Increased wages to postal clerks and letter carriers "is a matter of simple justice," declares the New York World.

It is no solution to say that these workers can move to localities where living costs are lower, for some must be kept in the big offices that earn the money for the entire system, the World points out.

"Postal men are not entering the service and "the younger men in the service are getting out, sacrificing seniority advantages because they see no future.

"The result is disorganization, dissatisfaction and inefficiency, and the condition will grow worse until relief comes."

STEREOTYPERS RAISE WAGES

Allentown, Pa., Feb. 9.—Stereotypers employed on newspapers in this city have raised wages $3 a week. The new rates are $37 for foremen and $44 for journeymen.

URGE STATE INSURANCE

Baltimore, Feb. 9.—A bill providing for state monopoly of workmen's compensation has been introduced in the state legislature. Trade unionists are supporting the plan.

STANDARD OIL GETS TEAPOT DOME "PIE"

Washington, Feb. 9.—Was Standard Oil handed $1,000,000 of the people's money just to settle one of its subsidiaries held illegal claims on Teapot Dome?

These claims—known as "cat and dog" claims—were held by men who sunk wells on the naval reserve without authority. Senator Walsh of Montana declared that "none of these claims had even a shadow of legality about them." The courts have disclaimed and dared go before the proper public officials and ask for a patent to any oil land.

Despite the illegality of these claims, they were paid off, and $1,000,000 of the people's money was used for that purpose. The money was paid to a subsidiary of Standard Oil, which had suddenly acquired possession of the claims.

"Of course, the secretary of the interior did not do it, but Mr. Sinclair did it," said Senator Walsh. "But if Mr. Sinclair had not paid $1,000,000 to clear these 'cat and dog' claims, he would have been able to pay the government of the United States $1,000,000 more for the lease than he did, so what is the difference?

"The government of the United States," continued Senator Walsh, "paid $1,000,000 for these claims. To whom did they pay it? To the Pioneer oil company? Who is the Pioneer oil company? The Pioneer oil company is a subsidiary of the Midwest company. The Midwest company is a subsidiary of the Standard oil company of Indiana; so that the Standard oil company of Indiana was paid $1,000,000 for these spurious claims.

"The Standard oil was a potential bidder for this lease on the Teapot Dome, but Mr. Sinclair gave them $1,000,000 to get out of the field. That is speculation, but there is no other possible theory."

LEWIS HAS WIDE POWER IN MINERS' WAGE MEET

Indianapolis, Feb. 9.—The Miners' convention repudiated communists and ordered other members to do so, but nearly 20 to one approved President Lewis' program by instructing their delegates to the joint wage meeting to agreement obtainable from the operators in the central competitive field on the basis of the present wage scales.

This field consists of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and western Pennsylvania, and is the hub around which bituminous wage scales revolve.

The convention's action means that President Lewis and the scale committee have a free hand to negotiate the best rate possible, subject to approval by the membership. The committee will meet the coal owners in Jacksonville.

The wage strategy of the miners' officials is a unionization program in the anti-union fields of West Virginia and other southern sections. The convention declined to abandon its opposition to the Kanawha River Valley Provision should be made for some fresh air entering the tonneau, the statement says.

DIXIE TEXTILE LABOR JOINING TRADE UNION

Huntersville, N. C., Feb. 9.—The joint council of the workers' committee, a committee of 50 for an organizing campaign in North and South Carolina. A round white flag is made for each 24-hour week and a 15 per cent wage increase.

The workers are members of the United Textile Workers. They will be supported by that international and by the A. F. of L.

The textile workers sent word to their Rhode Island fellow craftsmen not to be alarmed over the claim of manufacturers in that state that they will move south if the Rhode Island legislature passes a 48-hour law.

NO COMPANY "UNION" FOR NEW YORK CENTRAL

New York, Feb. 9.—The New York Central lines have no intention of declaring company unions, their proposals, according to P. E. Crowley, vice president for operations, in a speech before the New York state veterans' association.

The New York Central has a contract with the railway clerks, while the Pennsylvania, its nearest competitor, maintains a company "union."

"Our men are not entering the service and "the younger men in the service are getting out, sacrificing seniority advantages because they see no future.

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PACKING EMPLOYES GAIN

Portland, Ore., Feb. 9.—Sitting as a board of arbitration, the state board of conciliation has raised wages for 1,000 employes engaged in local meat packing plants.

Woodrow Wilson Aided Labor; Workers Hold Unique Memorial

Washington, Feb. 9. — Woodrow Wilson's efforts in behalf of social legislation and his legalizing of fundamental laws were told by trade union officials at a meeting called by President Gompers to take appropriate action on the death of the former chief executive.

There have been many historic gatherings in the executive council room of the A. F. of L. building. Statesmen, industry; citizens of every walk of life; the world's statesmen—all assembled here during the war. But nothing was more dramatic, more charged with human interest, than this quiet gathering of 100 workers.

President Gompers told of Woodrow Wilson's concept of liberty; of his pleas for the Clayton act; of his disappointment when the first child labor law was annulled by the supreme court; Vice President Duncan told of the president's interest in the unionists' report as a member of the commission sent to Russia; Secretary Frank Morrison recalled the great wage movement of building workmen and how the meat barons were checked just prior to America's entrance into the war; O'Connell of the metal trades, how the president reminded the labor group on the industrial relations commissions of their opportunity for labor; Furuseth of the seamen said that only a lover of liberty could resist the ship owners and sign the seamen's act, which Woodrow Wilson did; Jewell of the railway employes' department told of the president's private remedy for profiteering and his opposition to shop men who broke their pledged word to join the outlaw railroad strike in 1919; Stevens of the railway trainmen said the claim that workers "held a stop watch on congress to pass the Adamson law" was a "miserable subterfuge," and that the president was interested in the passage of the law; McKeown of the federal employes recalled the attempt to lengthen the work day of government employes, which was blocked by the president; Donlin of the building trades department; Manning of the union label trades department and other representatives of labor told of incidents associated with the mighty industrial struggles and the political advances of workers during Woodrow Wilson's presidency.

The meeting assumed an international aspect by Vargas of the Pan-American Federation of Labor declaring that the workers of South America and the other Latin Republics hold the memory of Woodrow Wilson in grateful remembrance. It was he who checked the gray wolves of reaction when they bowled that Mexico must be invaded. Iglesias of Porto Rico said it was Woodrow Wilson who inspired the people of that island, and who urged congress to give to Porto Ricans the status of citizens of the United States.

These stories were quietly told, and they were as quietly received. They were doubly dramatic because of their simplicity. These veterans of numberless industrial struggles related for the first time many other incidents in connection with the dead president, of his love of and his knowledge of the workers' ideals and his knowledge of forces that would subjugate the men and women of toil.

Elaborate memorials will be held in honor of Woodrow Wilson, but none broke their pledged word to join the will more truly voice the sentiments of labor than this voluntary gathering of workers.

BONUS FOR SOLDIERS FAVORED BY GOMPERS

Washington, Feb. 9.—"Congress will not be allowed to forget the demands for justice in behalf of the men who fought and bled that won the war," declared President Gompers.

"Adjusted compensation for world war veterans is a just demand, and even though certain politicians find it convenient to evade the issue," the unionist said.

"It took a year for most of the senators to wake up to the Teapot Dome and Elks Hill scandals. Labor demanded investigation a year ago. Labor likewise supported adjusted compensation a year and more ago and it will stick to the issue another year if necessary."

MORTGAGE SHARKS CAUSE HIGH RENTS

Washington, Feb. 9.—Mortgage sharks are a great factor in high rents than high building costs, according to R. S. Whaley, chairman of the district of Columbia rent commission.

The rent official pointed to the tremendous commissions charged for second and third mortgage loans.

Cases were referred to where a 20 per cent commission was paid for first-mortgage money, because the lender knew in a few years the property would not be worth what the builder was asking. "The same holds true to a greater extent for second-mortgage loans," said Mr. Whaley. "No second-rent money can be had in the ordinary case for less than 25 per cent. Often it is 40 per cent. That means the renter must pay but that much more.

"People erroneously claim the high cost of labor and building materials are responsible for high rents. They do not face it looks that way, but the situation is just reversed. Speculators know the renter can't find a home, so they squeeze all they can out of him."

BIG BIZ GIVES AID TO MURDEROUS THUG

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 9.—The state pardon board has reduced the sentence of Fred Hurst from three years to one year and 10 months. This will make his release possible next May.

Hurst is a citizen's alliance slugger. In October, 1921, he assaulted J. M. Dunsford, high school principal, in the belief that Guise was John Klaus, representative of the Typographical union.

Every power that big business and the citizens' alliance could bring to bear was put in behalf of Hurst. Judge Catlin refused to give the thug a suspended sentence, as that power was exercised by his predecessor. County Attorney O'Brien also refused to hearken to the voice of law-defying big business, and he narrowly escaped defeat. Citizen's alliance newspapers abused the attorney who insisted that Hurst be prosecuted.

Since Hurst has been confined in the state penitentiary he has served as a trusty.

PHILADELPHIA LABOR EXCESS

Philadelphia, Feb. 9.—An excess of building laborers in this city is being drawn upon to lower wages and conditions. This excess is also found in the metal trades.

PENNSY LOCOMOTIVES DANGEROUS TO LIFE

Indianapolis, Feb. 9.—The Pennsylvania railroad's use of defective locomotives brought bitter criticism by John A. Sherley, assistant chief inspector of locomotives for the interstate commerce commission.

The inspector declared that this railroad has the record for maintaining and attempting to operate back-order engines. Officials of the system are well aware of the condition of their locomotives, he said, and have been repeatedly warned by the interstate commerce commission to remedy conditions. It was stated that thousands of dollars have been lost to coal owners, manufacturers, farmers, grain dealers and other shippers.

It was disclosed that inspectors operating for the commission cut out 188 locomotives as a result of 188 inspected on the entire Pennsylvania system in January alone. Approximately 50 of this number were retired in Indianapolis. Some of the locomotives were taken off engine-house tracks, which were delayed several hours in the union station before another engine could be secured, thus causing not engine-house tracks, which were delayed several hours in the union station before another engine could be secured, thus causing not only danger life and property.

Railroad shop men are comparing the Pennsylvania road because the locomotive equipment with that of the New York Central, the Baltimore & Ohio and other systems is handled in the matter of relations with skilled union shop men.

PEOPLE DON'T OWN HOMES

Washington, Feb. 9.—In urging a national reclamation program, Congressman Bankhead reminded his colleagues that 60 per cent of the American people do not own their homes.

"Do you know that 60,000,000 men, women and children of America's population today do not own even one 'by roof over their head?' asked the lawmaker. "They are renters, drifters, boarders and lodgers who do not possess the real estate on which they live."

Mr. Bankhead said that down in the great southern country there is more than 10,000,000 acres of land covered by water which, if drained, would make this land fertile. The speaker predicted a population of 140,000,000 in this country within 20 years.

"There is left only one vast domain of cultivable land, the vast expansion of agricultural products, and that consists of the arid and semiarid lands in the western states, the swamp, overflowed and cut-over lands of the southern states, and some sections in the lake states and New England."

NEW CONVICT WORK PLAN

Birmingham, Ala., Feb. 9.—An attempt will be made to mitigate the evils of convict labor in the mines of this state by substituting prison supervision for that of the mining companies.

The companies will pay the state a fixed rate a ton for coal which the state will take from the companies' mines.

Convicts employed in the Aldrich mines revolted last month, and the matter is being investigated by the Shelby county grand jury. Overwork was a factor in changing the system.